

# Gun Violence in America

Public Issues Forum  
Monday, November 12, 2018



***Definition:*** For purposes of tonight's forum only and to provide a manageable scope, we are defining "gun violence" only as suicide or homicide with the use of a gun.

# Sources of Statistics

- Small Arms Survey
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
  - NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Australian Institute of Criminology

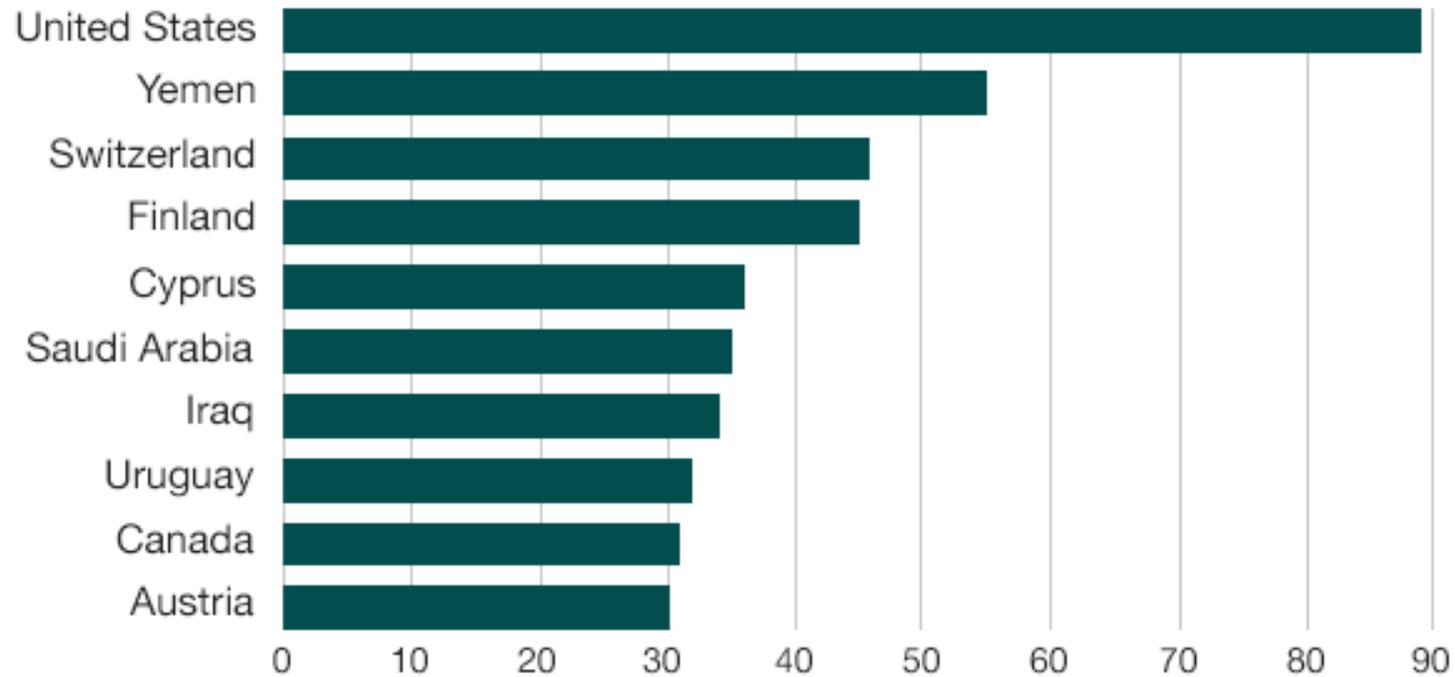
***Disclaimer:** We looked for the best sources of information and shared the information with each panelist. The intent is to present the best, unbiased statistics available regarding gun violence.*



# How America Compares

## Top 10 civilian gun-owning countries

Firearms per 100 residents



Source: Small Arms Survey (2011)

BBC

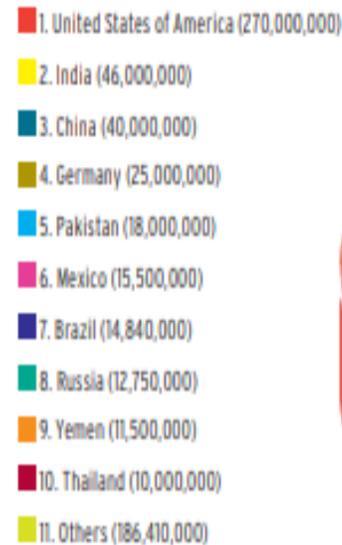


Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-41488081>

# Civilian Gun Ownership

- Americans own 48% of the estimated 650M civilian-owned guns worldwide.
- Americans own more guns per capita than any other country.
- About 4 in 10 U.S. adults say they live in a gun-owning household.

Figure 2 Estimated civilian firearms: top ten countries by total



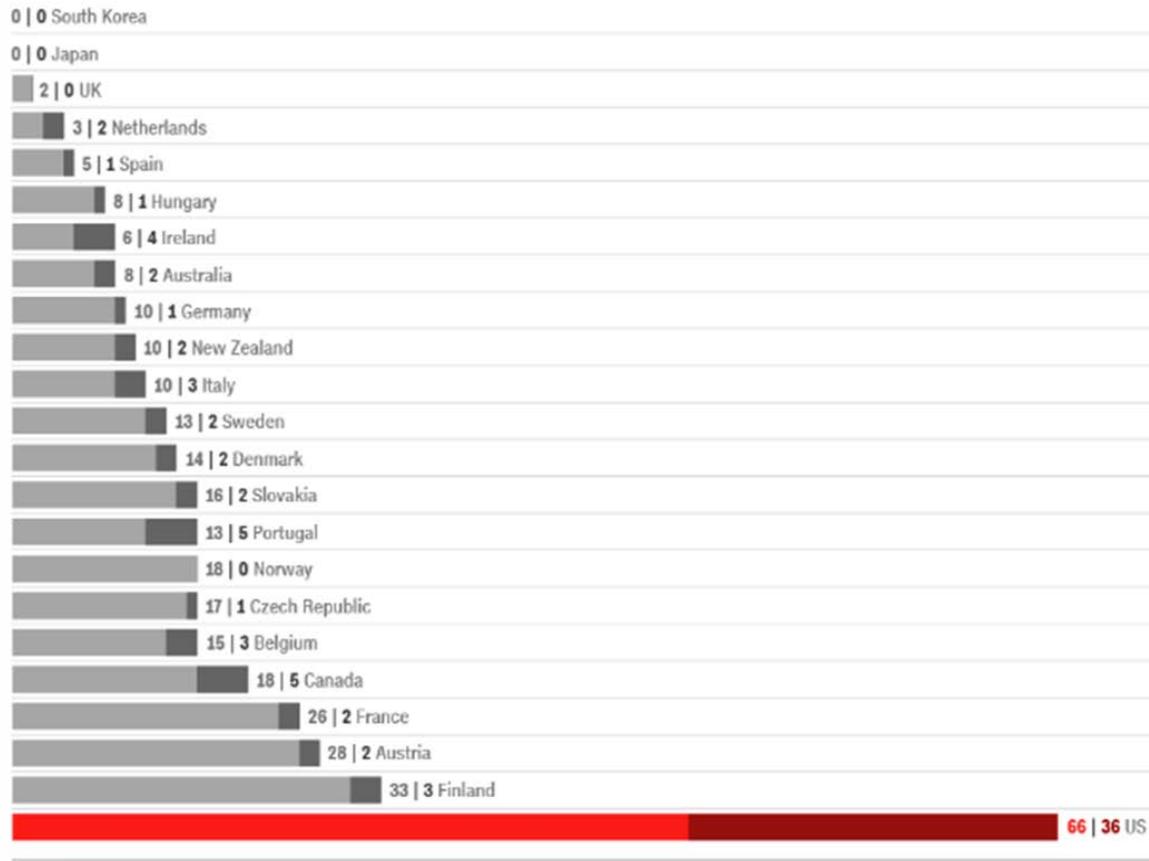
Sources: Small Arms Survey (2007, ch. 2, online annexes 3, 4) and author's notes.



# Gun-Related Deaths in High-Income Countries

GUN-RELATED DEATHS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES, per 1 million people, 2010

■ Unintentional, suicides and undetermined ■ Homicides



CNN Source: OECD, WHO, American Journal of Medicine, Grinshteyn and Hemenway, 2010

- Gun-related suicides in the US are higher than other high-income countries.

■ Unintentional, suicides and undetermined

- Gun-related homicides are higher in the US than in other high-income countries.

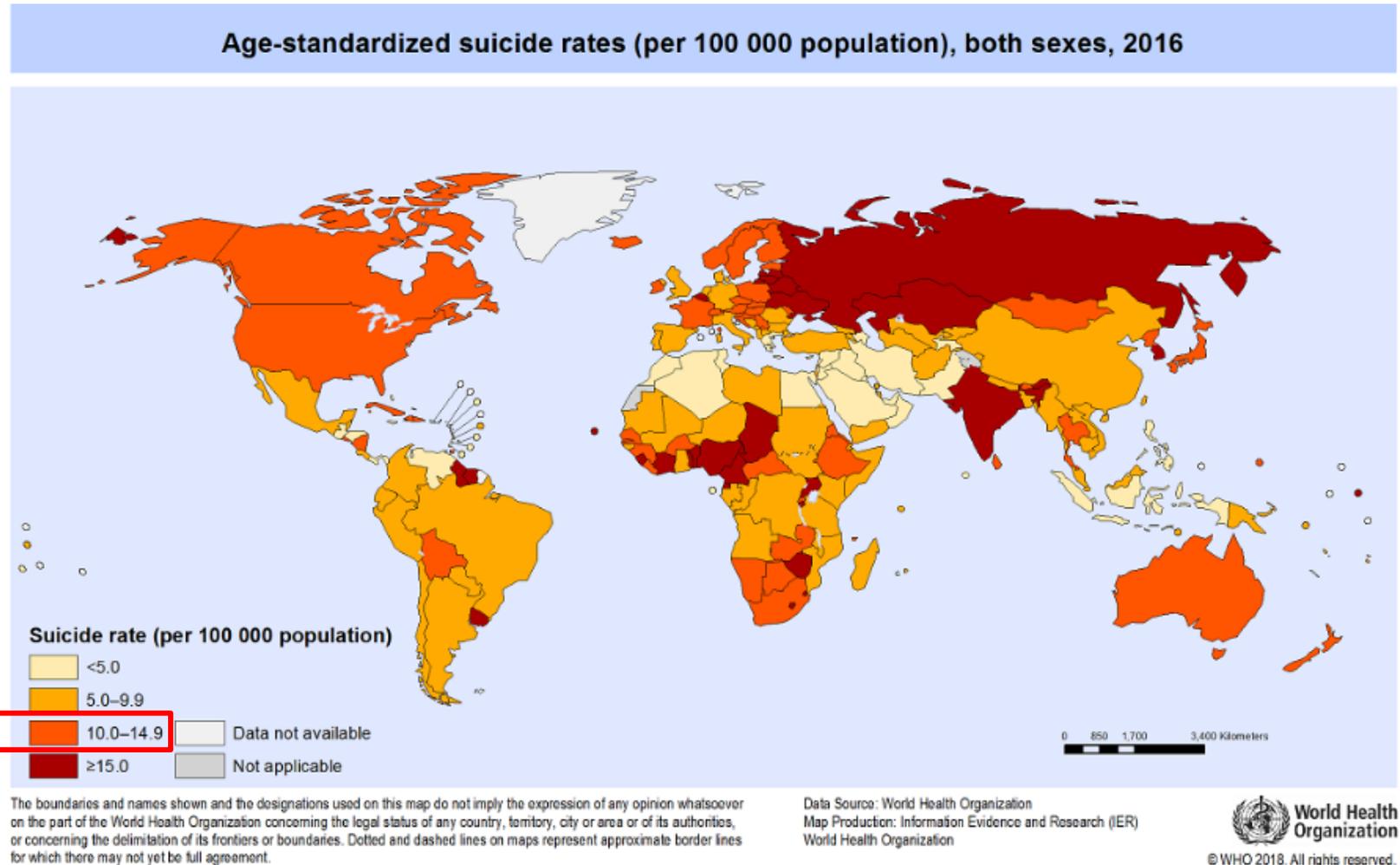
■ Homicides



Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2017/10/03/americas/us-gun-statistics/index.html>

# World Suicide Rates by all Means

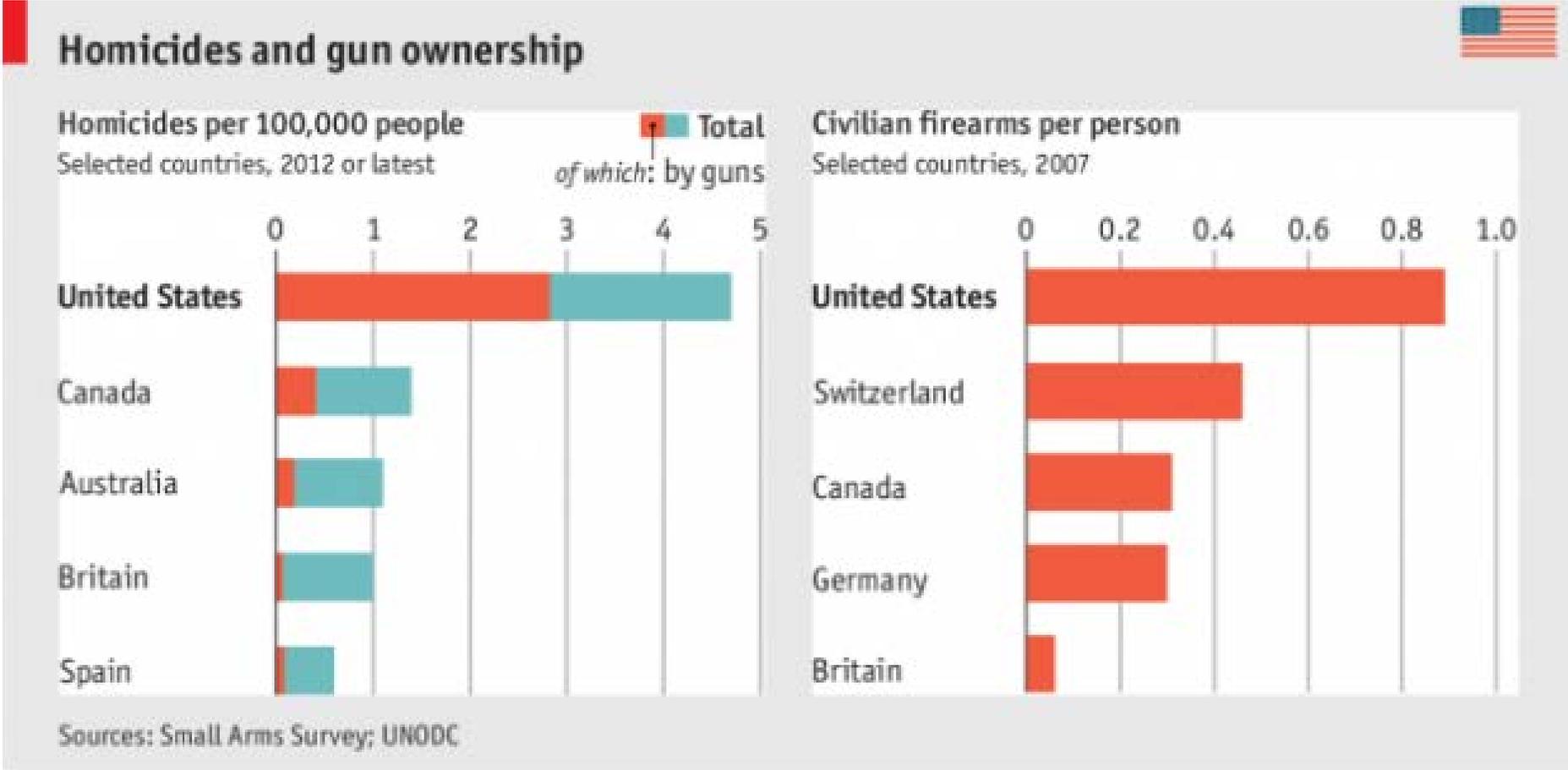
American suicide rate by all means, per the World Health Organization, is similar to other developed nations.



Source: [http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/prevention/suicide/suicideprevent/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/prevention/suicide/suicideprevent/en/)

# Selected Countries Homicide Rates

Homicide rates, by gun and by other means, are higher in the US than in other selected high-income countries.

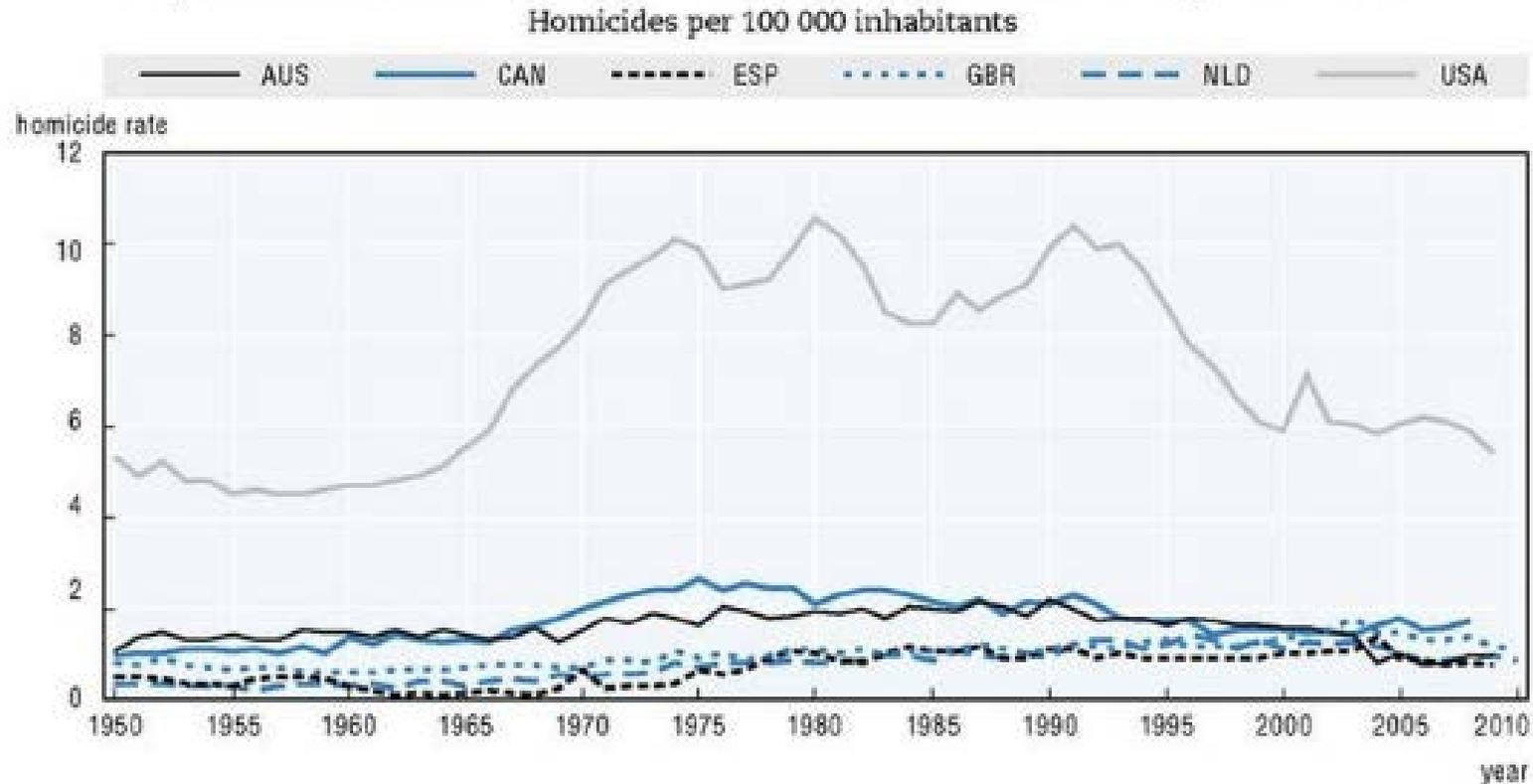


Economist.com

Source: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2015/08/10/to-keep-and-bear-arms>

# Homicide Rates in Selected Western Countries

Figure 8.1. Homicide rates in selected Western countries, 1950-2010



Note: For an assessment of data quality, see Table 8.2.

Source: Clio-Infra, [www.clio-infra.eu](http://www.clio-infra.eu).

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933095932>

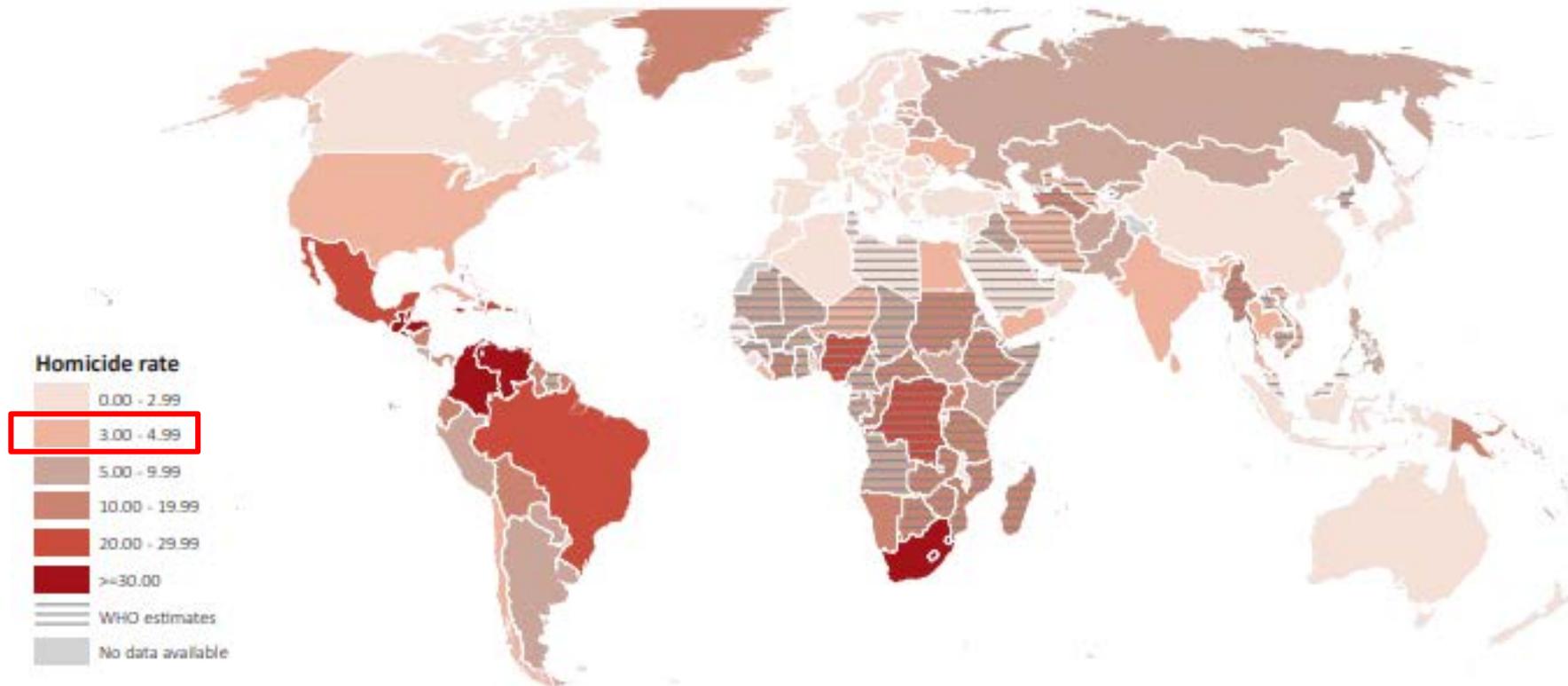
Sources: <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-vs-western-homicide-rates-2014-11>;

<https://datasets.socialhistory.org/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:10622/FMI6L9>

# Homicide Rates by Country or Territory

Rate per 100k residents per year

**Map 1.1: Homicide rates, by country or territory (2012 or latest year)**



Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

Source: UNODC Homicide Statistics (2013).

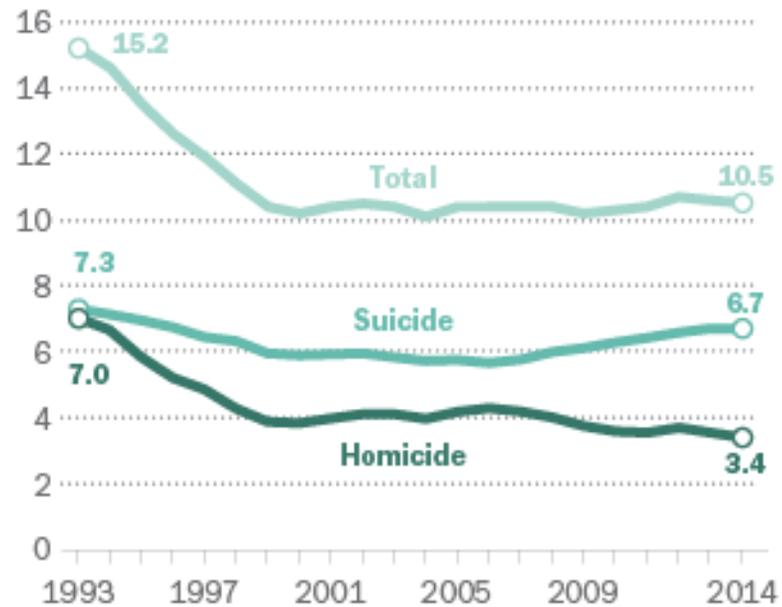


Source: <https://www.unodc.org/gsh/>

# Declining Gun Violence in America

## Gun Violence Has Declined Since '90s

Deaths by firearm per 100,000 people, all ages



Nonfatal violent firearm crime victimizations per 100,000 people ages 12 and older



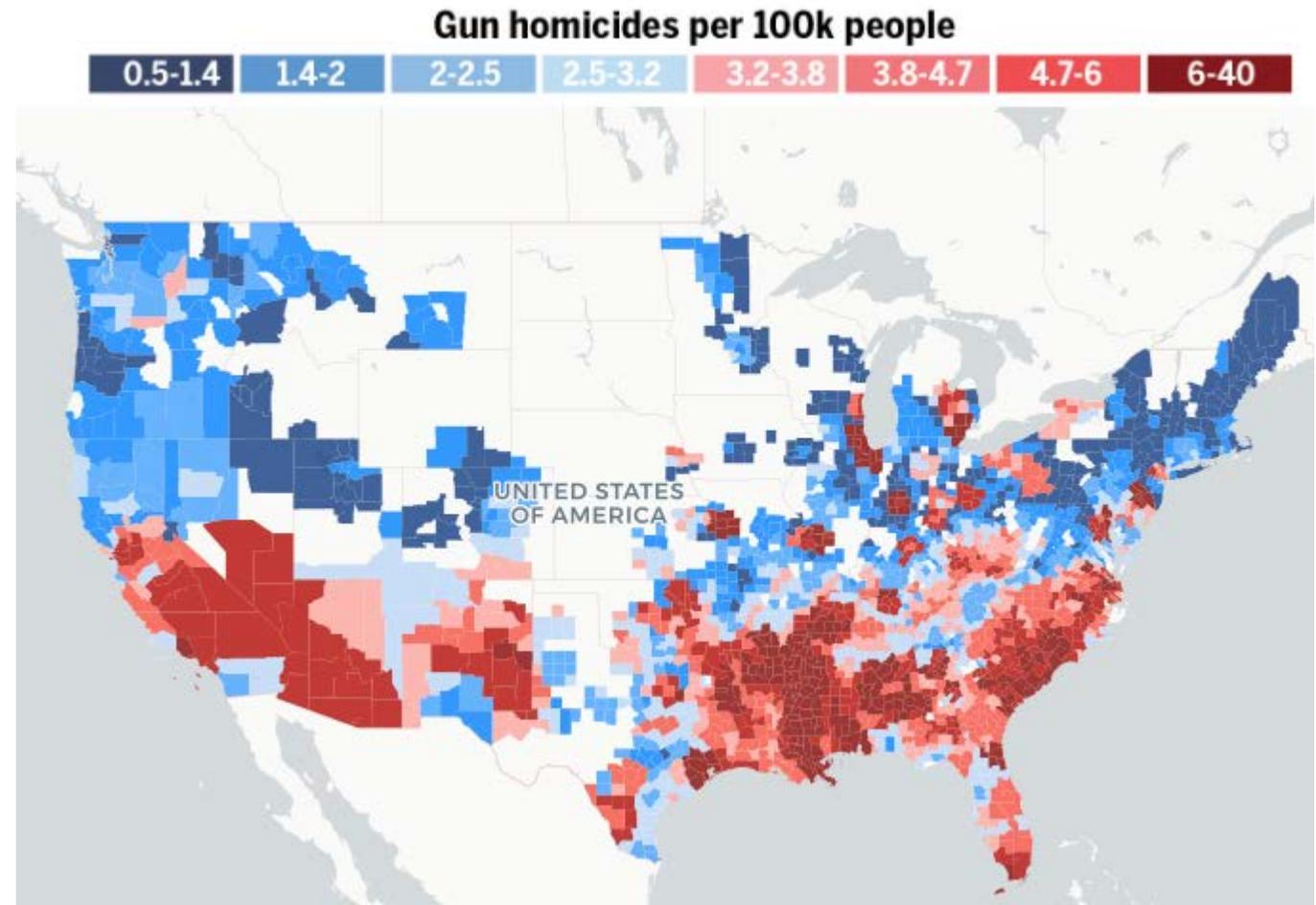
Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/10/21/gun-homicides-steady-after-decline-in-90s-suicide-rate-edges-up/>

# Concentration of Gun Violence in US

Total from 2004-2010

Based on data from the CDC, the map shows the average number of US gun deaths per 100k county residents from 2004 through 2010.

- Red is for counties with rates above the median for all counties;
- Blue is for counties with rates below median;
- Gray indicates counties for which the CDC did not release data because the numbers were small.



Source: <https://projects.oregonlive.com/ucc-shooting/gun-deaths>

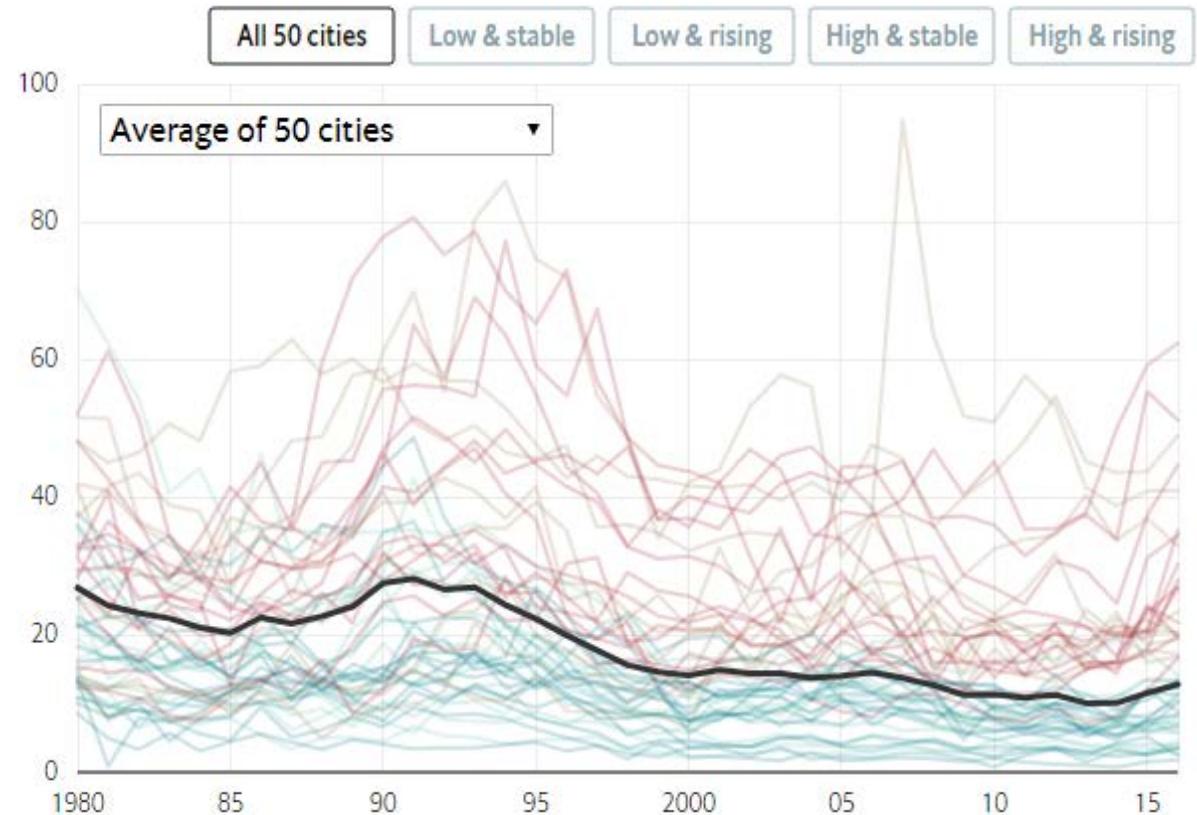
# Homicides in US Major Cities

- The interactive chart shows that the 50 cities fall into four categories.
- In each category the level and trajectory of murder rates differ:
  1. they are low and stable in 13 cities (among them New York and Los Angeles);
  2. in 15 they are low but increasing (Houston and Las Vegas);
  3. in 9 they are high but stable (Philadelphia and Detroit);
  4. and in 13 they are high and rising (Chicago and Indianapolis).



## Murder in America

Homicides per 100,000 population



Sources: FBI; NACJD; cities' police departments; *The Economist*

Source: <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2017/02/07/murder-rates-in-50-american-cities>

# Gun Deaths in America 2015

**Table 11. Number of deaths, death rates, and age-adjusted death rates for injury deaths, by mechanism and intent of death for all injury death and leading causes of injury death: United States, 2015**

[Totals for selected causes of death may differ from those shown in other tables that use standard mortality tabulation lists, see Technical Notes. Rates are per 100,000 population; age-adjusted rates are per 100,000 U.S. standard population; see Technical Notes. Populations used for computing death rates are postcensal estimates based on the 2010 census estimated as of July 1, 2015; see Technical Notes. Numbers in brackets [ ] apply to the code or range of codes preceding them. The asterisks (\*) preceding cause-of-death codes indicate they are not part of the *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)*; see Technical Notes]

Mechanism and intent of death (based on ICD-10)	Number		Rate	Age-adjusted rate <sup>1</sup>
Firearm..... (*U01.4,W32-W34,X72-X74,X93-X95,Y22-Y24,Y35.0)	36,252		11.3	11.1
Unintentional..... (W32-W34)	489		0.2	0.2
Suicide.....(X72-X74)	22,018	61%	6.9	6.5
Homicide..... (*U01.4,X93-X95)	12,979	36%	4.0	4.2
Undetermined.....(Y22-Y24)	282		0.1	0.1
Legal intervention/war.....(Y35.0)	484		0.2	0.1



# \*US Homicide Data by Weapon Type

- An average of 70% of all homicides are committed with a firearm
- An average of 68% of firearm homicides are committed with a handgun
- An average of 24% of firearm homicides do not have a type of firearm stated

\*Not all homicides have expanded data available

Weapons	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	12,888	12,253	12,270	13,750	15,070
Total firearms:	8,897	8,454	8,312	9,778	11,004
Handguns	6,404	5,782	5,673	6,569	7,105
Rifles	298	285	258	258	374
Shotguns	310	308	264	272	262
Other guns	116	123	93	177	186
Firearms, type not stated	1,769	1,956	2,024	2,502	3,077

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total Firearms</b>	69%	69%	68%	71%	73%	70%
<b>Handguns</b>	72%	68%	68%	67%	65%	68%
<b>Not stated</b>	20%	23%	24%	26%	28%	24%



# \*US Multiple Victim Shootings in 2014

- 90.6% of all homicides are single victim situations.
- 9.4% are multiple victim situations.
- “Multiple” is defined as 2 or more victims, which is not the same definition as mass shootings (currently defined as 3+ victims).

\*Not all homicides have expanded data available



Expanded Homicide Data Table 4

**Murder**  
by Victim/Offender Situations, 2014

Download Excel

Situation	Total	Percent distribution <sup>1</sup>
Total	11,961	100.0
Single victim/single offender	5,703	47.7
Single victim/unknown offender or offenders	3,648	30.5
Single victim/multiple offenders	1,481	12.4
Multiple victims/single offender	559	4.7
Multiple victims/multiple offenders	227	1.9
Multiple victims/unknown offender or offenders	343	2.9

<sup>1</sup> Because of rounding, the percentages may not add to 100.0.

Sources: [https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/expanded-homicide-data/expanded\\_homicide\\_data\\_table\\_4\\_murder\\_by\\_victim\\_offender\\_situations\\_2014.xls](https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/tables/expanded-homicide-data/expanded_homicide_data_table_4_murder_by_victim_offender_situations_2014.xls)

# US Active Shooter Incidents

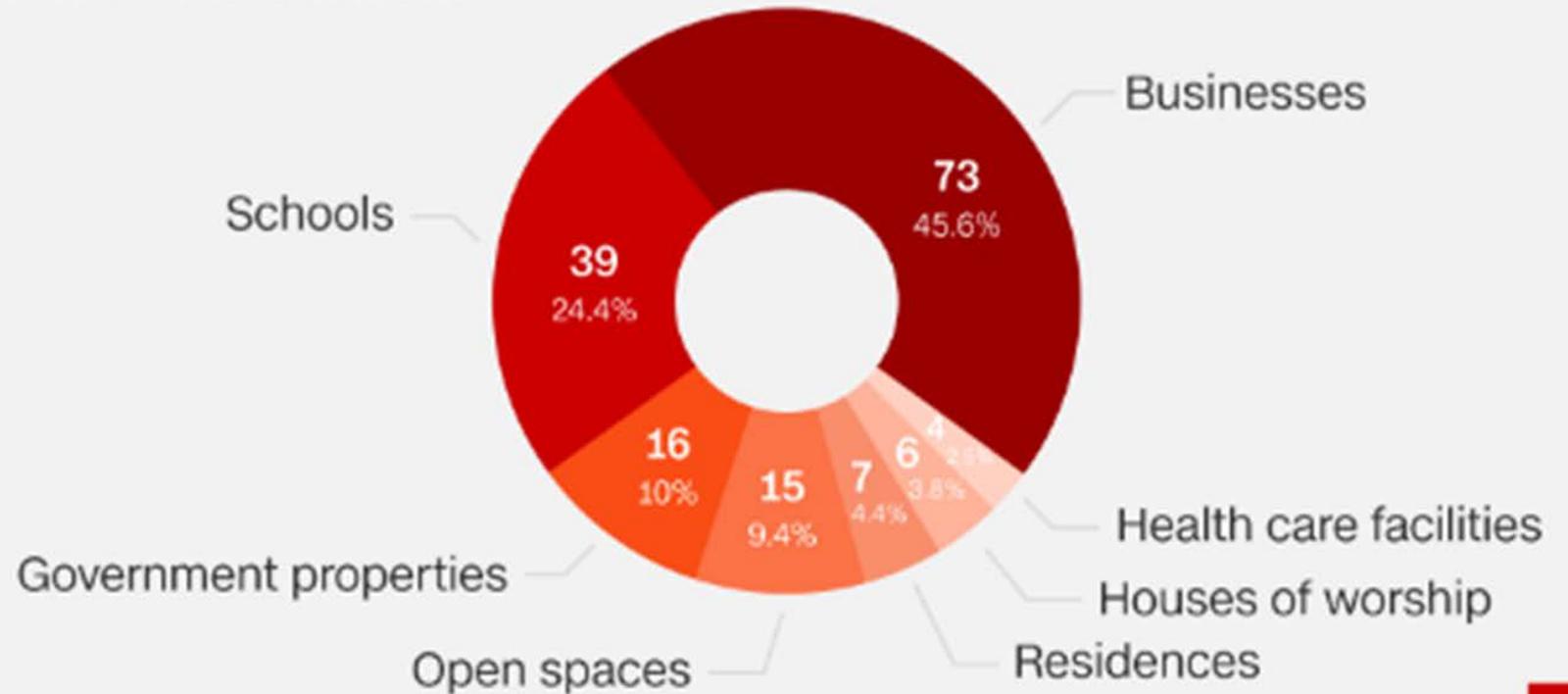
Total From 2000-2013

The FBI studied **160** specific types of active-shooter incidents **between 2000 and 2013**. Active shooting incidents are defined by federal agencies as **"an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area."** (This is different from mass killings, which are episodes where three or more people are killed; while many active shooting incidents wind up being mass killings, more than half of the episodes in the FBI study did not meet that definition.)



## Active shooter incidents: Where you're most at risk

Number of incidents, 2000-2013



Source: FBI, A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013



Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2015/12/04/us/gun-violence-graphics/index.html>

# History of Mass Shootings in US

In **January 2013**, a mandate for federal investigation of mass shootings, authorized by President Barack Obama, **lowered the previous 4 victim baseline to 3 or more victims killed** (excluding armed robbery or gang violence).



Source: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/12/mass-shootings-mother-jones-full-data/>

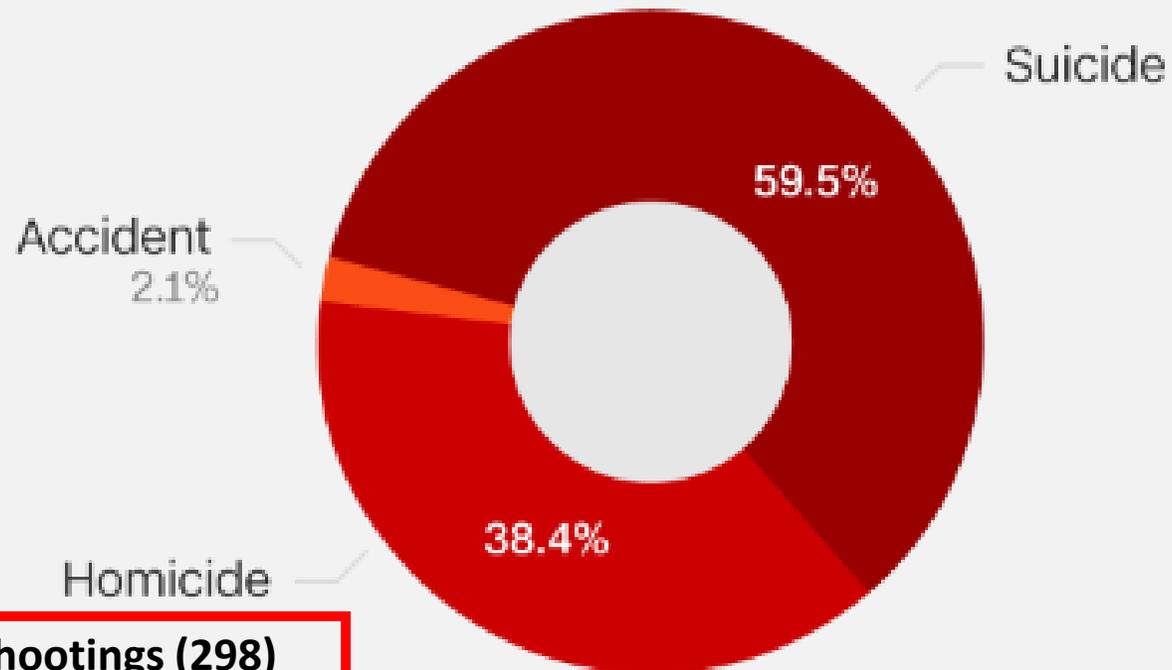
# Mass Shootings as Percent of Total Gun Deaths

Total from 2001-2013

## Suicides account for 3 in 5 gun deaths in the U.S.

About 400,000 people died as a result of gun violence in the United States from 2001 to 2013.

Here's how they died:



**Mass Shootings (298)**  
**0.075% of total deaths**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

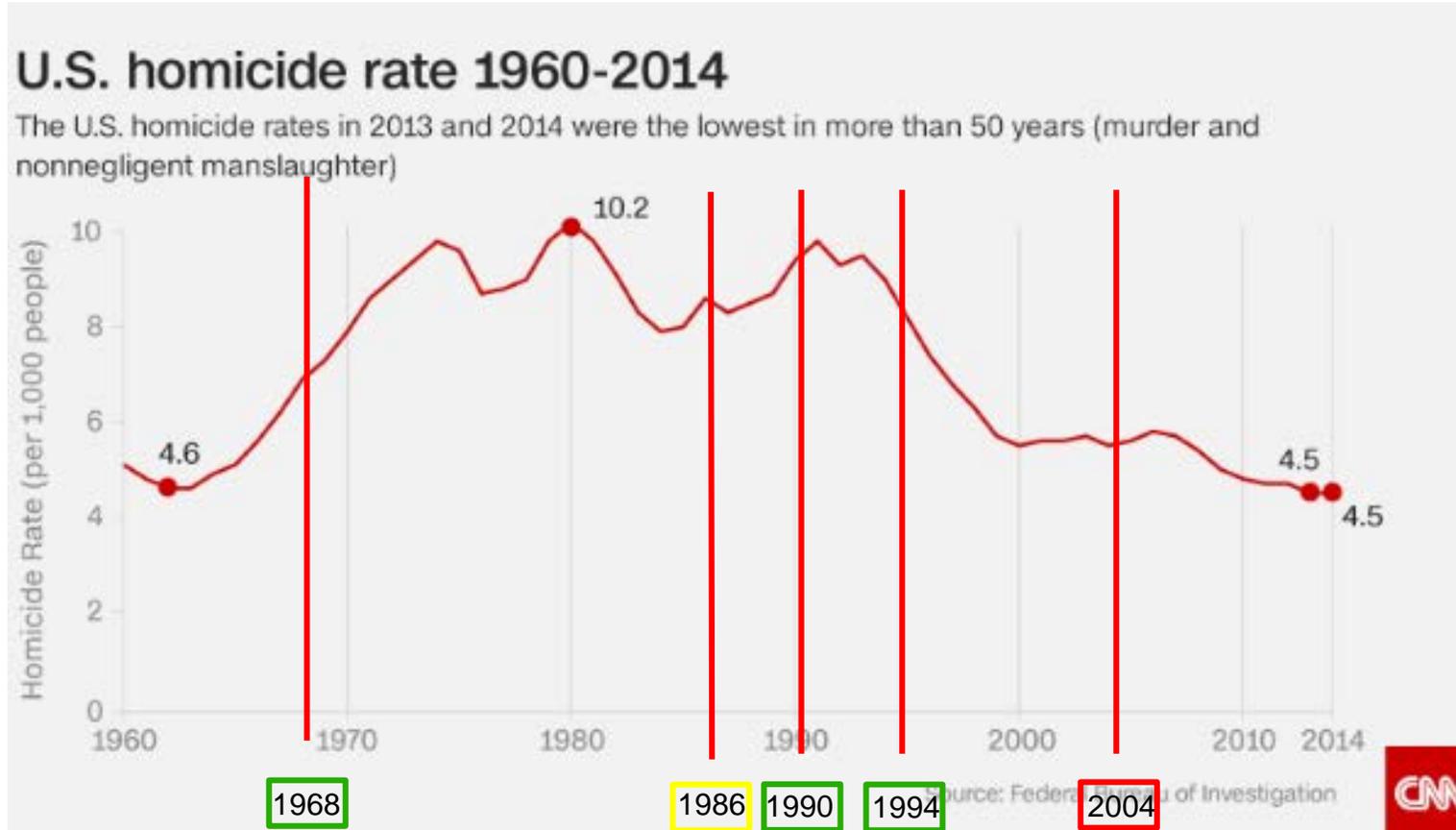


Sources: <https://www.cnn.com/2015/12/04/us/gun-violence-graphics/index.html>;

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b9o6uDO18sLxBqPwl\\_Gh9bnhW-ev\\_dABH83M5Vb5L8o/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b9o6uDO18sLxBqPwl_Gh9bnhW-ev_dABH83M5Vb5L8o/edit#gid=0)

# Gun Legislation Research

Total U.S homicide rate peaked in 1980 and has been on the decline since, with the sharpest decline starting in 1993.



Sources: <https://www.cnn.com/2015/12/04/us/gun-violence-graphics/index.html>;  
[http://www.csg.org/pubs/capitolideas/2013\\_may\\_june/gunlegislation.aspx](http://www.csg.org/pubs/capitolideas/2013_may_june/gunlegislation.aspx)

## HISTORY OF FEDERAL FIREARMS

**1791** **SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION RATIFIED**  
 "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

**1934** **NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT**  
 Created as a result of gangster violence in the 1920s and early 1930s, restricted the sale of automatic weapons, short-barreled rifles and shotguns, as well as silencers. The act also placed a \$200 tax—\$3,400 adjusted to 2012 dollars—on any new restricted weapons bought and subjected them to approval through the U.S. Treasury Department. The \$200 tax and federal approval are still in place.

**1938** **FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT**  
 Designed to cut down on interstate and offshore trafficking of firearms and required the licensing of firearms dealers via the Federal Firearms License. Dealers also were required to record the names and contact information for buyers and were prohibited from selling guns to people convicted of certain crimes.

**1968** **GUN CONTROL ACT**  
 Following President John F. Kennedy's assassination by Lee Harvey Oswald, who used a rifle bought via mail order, and the subsequent assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, the Gun Control Act expanded dealer licensing requirements, restricted handgun sales across state lines, enlarged the list of people who could not buy a gun, and outlawed direct sales of rifles and shotguns by mail order.

**1986** **FIREARM OWNERS' PROTECTION ACT**  
 Loosened several previous restrictions, including limited sales of long guns across state lines, legalized ammunition sales via mail and the transportation of firearms through states where such possession is legal. The law also placed restrictions on how the ATF can inspect firearms dealers. The law outright banned the sale of automatic weapons to civilians; the 1934 National Firearms Act merely restricted their sale.

**1990** **CRIME CONTROL ACT**  
 Established drug-free school zones, including the prohibition of firearms in designated school zones. The law also outlawed the domestic manufacture of certain semiautomatic rifles or shotguns using legally obtained imported parts.

**1994** **VIOLENT CRIME CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT**  
 Commonly known as the Assault Weapons Ban, the law banned the manufacture, possession and importation of certain semiautomatic rifles and shotguns and restricted the manufacture and sale of firearm magazines with a capacity over 10 rounds. The law established criteria for defining an assault weapon and banned 19 firearms specifically, including the AR-15.

**2004** **FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN EXPIRES**  
 A 10-year sunset clause was included in the 1994 law and Congress did not reauthorize the law.

# Gun Legislation Research: Correlation v Causation

**RAND Gun Policy in America:** We reviewed thousands of studies to identify all available evidence for the effects of 13 gun policies on eight outcomes. After excluding studies that did not meet our criteria for establishing a law's effects, **we found little persuasive evidence for the effects of most policies on most outcomes.**

<https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html>

## **JAMA Network Firearm Legislation and Firearm-Related Fatalities in the United States:**

In conclusion, we found an association between the legislative strength of a state's firearm laws—as measured by a higher number of laws—and a lower rate of firearm fatalities. The association was significant for firearm fatalities overall and for firearm suicide and firearm homicide deaths, individually. As **our study could not determine a cause-and-effect relationship, further studies are necessary to define the nature of this association.**

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1661390>

## **Center for Disease Control: First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing Violence: Firearms Laws Findings from the Task Force on Community Preventive Services 2003:**

In summary, the Task Force found **insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of any of the firearms laws** reviewed for preventing violence. The Task Force's review of firearms laws found insufficient evidence to determine whether the laws reviewed reduce (or increase) specific violent outcomes (Table). Much existing research suffers from problems with data, analytic methods, or both.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5214a2.htm>

**JAMA Network Association Between Gun Law Reforms and Intentional Firearm Deaths in Australia, 1979-2013:** Following the enactment of gun law reforms in Australia in 1996, there were no mass firearm killings through May 2016. There was a more rapid decline in firearm deaths between 1997 and 2013 compared with before 1997, but also a decline in total non-firearm suicide and homicide deaths of a greater magnitude. Because of this, **it is not possible to determine whether the change in firearm deaths can be attributed to the gun law reforms.**

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2530362>

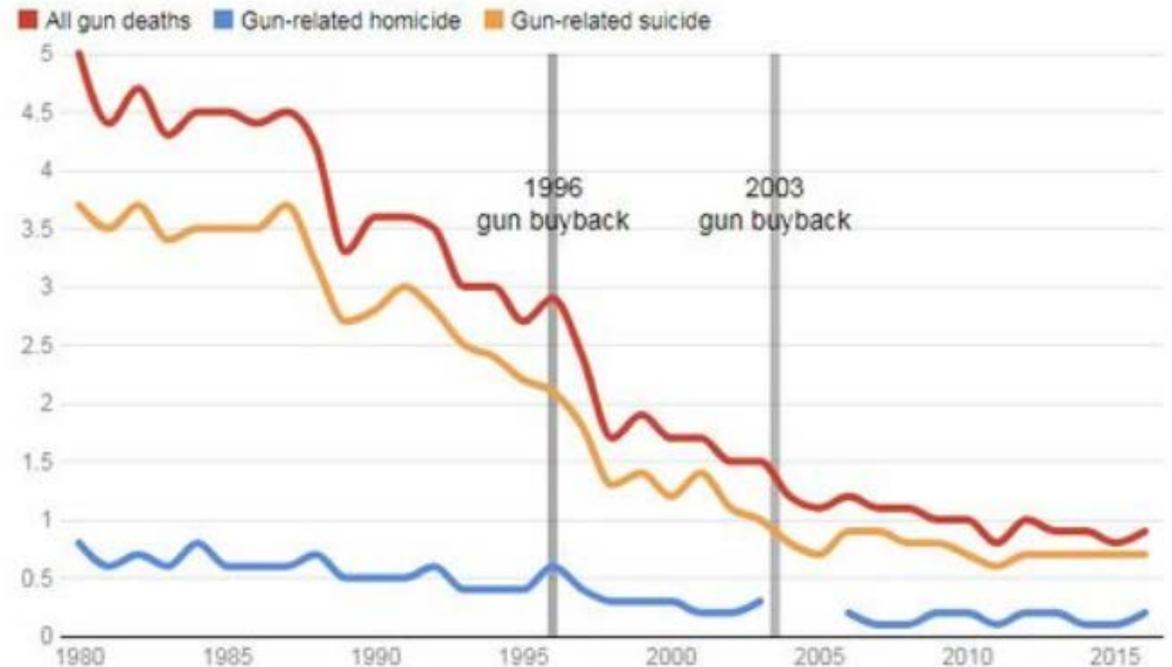
# Australian Mandatory Gun Buyback Program



# Australian Gun-related Deaths 1980-2016

- In the 15 years prior to the first gun buyback in 1996, there had been 13 mass shootings in Australia.
- In the 21 years since the first gun buyback program, there has not been a mass shooting in the country.

Gun-related death rates, Australia, 1980-2016



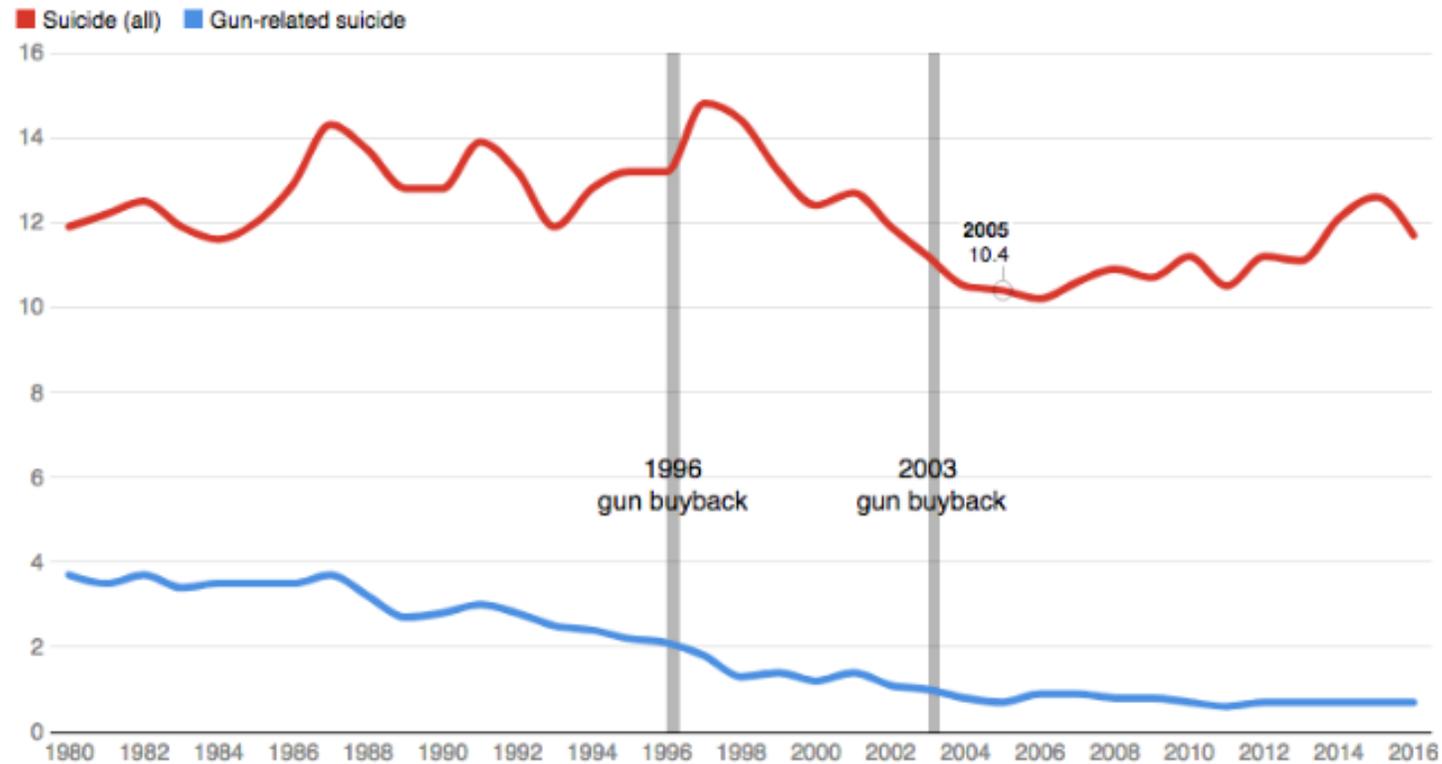
Age-standardised death rates on a per 100,000 population basis, using estimated mid-year population. Age-standardised death rates based on a death count of fewer than 20 have not been published. This is represented by a break in the line for gun related homicide rates. 'All gun deaths' includes suicide, homicide, accidental death and 'undetermined intent'. In these data, guns include handguns, rifles, shotguns and larger firearms, including unspecified firearms.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



# Australian Suicide Rates 1980-2016

All suicide rates and gun-related suicide rates, Australia, 1980-2016



Age-standardised death rates on a per 100,000 population basis, using estimated mid-year population. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

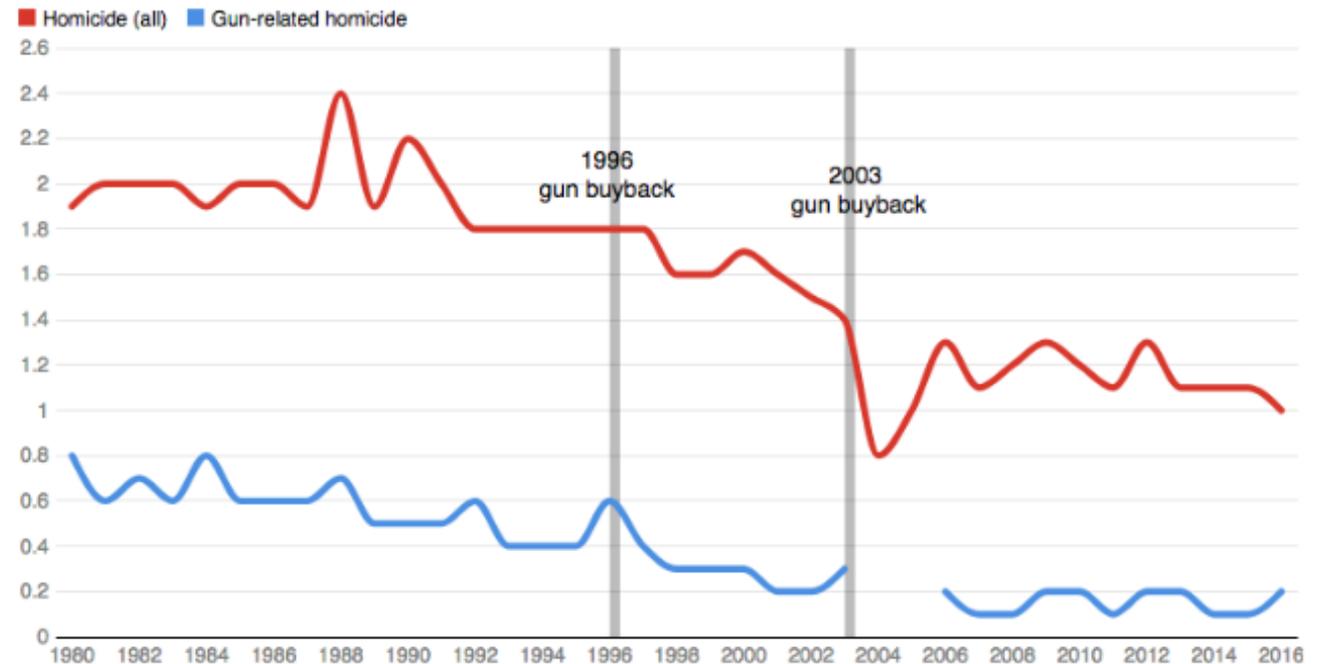


Source: <https://indaily.com.au/news/sponsored-content/2017/11/10/fact-check-government-gun-buybacks-reduce-number-gun-deaths-australia/>

# Australian Homicide Rates 1980-2016

The majority of firearms used to commit homicide in Australia since 1989/90 were held unlawfully at the time.

All homicide rates and gun-related homicide rates, Australia, 1980-2016



Age-standardised death rates on a per 100,000 population basis, using estimated mid-year population. Age-standardised death rates based on a death count of fewer than 20 have not been published. This is represented by a break in the line for gun related homicide rates. Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics



Sources: <https://indaily.com.au/news/sponsored-content/2017/11/10/fact-check-government-gun-buybacks-reduce-number-gun-deaths-australia/>; <https://aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi361>

# Conclusion

# Thank you!

Visit the League of Women Voters' website  
for a copy of this presentation.

